



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Allan Henderson, 8th SUPS.

The 8th Supply Squadron Fuels Team change out two rear-dual tires, each weighing about 240 pounds, during the first-ever Supply/Fuels Readiness Competition at Osan Air Base May 4. The team swept its three event and includes (left to right) Airman 1st Class Donald Carver, Tech. Sgt. Raymond Fox, Senior Jay Hankin and Airman 1st Class Dallas Hutchinson.

Supply wins first-ever peninsula rodeo

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
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When most people think of rodeos, bucking broncos, bulls and cowboy hats come to mind. But Kunsan's 8th Supply Squadron used a 6,000-gallon jet fuel truck and a 35-foot tractor-trailer to beat out Osan's 51st SUPS in a Supply/Fuels rodeo May 4.

Dubbed the "Duel on the Peninsula," the Supply/Fuels Readiness Competition held at Osan tested the competitors' driving skills, compliance with technical orders and agility. This is the first year the two squadrons held the event.

Judges awarded three trophies: fuels, supply and overall best team, which combined each team's supply/fuels scores.

Kunsan's fuels management flight swept its three events: tire changing, figure eight slalom and backing, and fuels analysis. Supply won its tractor-trailer figure-eight event, and competed in forklift and 1.5-ton truck slalom driving events. Kunsan's combined team won the overall competition because they won four of the six events.

The 8th SUPS team's goal was to "prove that we're the best," said Airman 1st Class Dallas Hutchinson, a fuels team member.

"We wanted to show Osan what we are all about," Hutchinson said.

And show Osan they did.

For example, in 1-minute, 38 seconds, less than half the allotted 4-minute time, the four-member fuels team removed and changed two rear-dual tires on a 6,000-gallon fuel truck. Sound easy? Add in that one of the competitors simulated taking one of the approximately 240-pound tires to the repair shop by rolling it more than 100 yards through four traffic cones, and maintained total control of it.

"There were two things that really contributed to the win: the (prior) rodeo experience that was on the team, and it was all synchronized. Everybody on the team had a particular time and a place to do their job," said Tech. Sgt. Raymond Fox, fuels resources NCO in charge, and a team member.

In the lab analysis event, Kunsan's fuels team scored a perfect 100 points, which was impressive considering they had to follow strict step-by-step sampling procedures, said Tech. Sgt. Stacy Baker, one of the fuels judges from Kunsan. Fox and Airman 1st Class Donald Carver made up the analysis team.

The fourth fuels member was Senior Airman Jay Hankin, who acted as a spotter for Hutchinson during the figure-eight slalom and backing event, which involved backing while dressed to Mission-Oriented Protective Posture 4.

Demonstrating his own driving talents, Staff Sgt. David Rivera won the tractor-trailer figure-eight event in the supply competition, which is no easy task with a 10-ton, 35-foot long rig. Rivera maneuvered the tractor-

trailer around the figure eight avoiding the traffic cones. His final feat was backing the rig 180 feet straight back to get as close to a plastic road barrier without touching it with the vehicle.

Rivera's strategy for winning: "I drove as fast as I could!"

Although he didn't win, Senior Airman Keith Harmen barely missed beating out his Osan competitor in the 1.5-ton truck figure-eight slalom by less than 18 seconds, which accounts for less than two traffic cones being knocked down, said Master Sgt. Pete Lopez, a supply judge from Kunsan.

Staff Sgt. George Clemens put forth a valiant effort in the forklift figure eight.

The day's events concluded with a tug-of-war between the two base's teams and a barbecue.

Kunsan's 8th SUPS commander said the win involved the entire squadron.

"Training is everything and teamwork goes beyond those who were in the competition," said Maj. Mark Hawley. "All of our experts in the squadron who were familiar with the annual Supply/Fuels Rodeo competition from their previous stateside assignments came together to set up the obstacle course and judge the practice runs. Our training was intense, done on the team's own time, and realistic so when the day of the competition arrived, the events were second nature.

"We won because of the Wolf Pack team spirit and our warrior attitude."